



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

REPORT ON THE INDEXING OF THE FEDERAL STATUTES

The tentative plan of a classification for an index to the federal statutes, prepared under an act of congress for the approval of the judiciary committees of the house and senate, did not receive the necessary approval of the senate judiciary committee until March, 1907. Owing to this delay and also the need experienced by congress for a comprehensive subject index to the federal statutes in force, work was begun at once on a subject index to the general and permanent law found in the revised statutes of 1873 and the seventeen volumes of the statutes at large which follow; altogether about 25,000 quarto pages of statutes.

Because the personal, local and temporary statutes have constantly mixed in with them provisions of general and permanent force, every line of the 25,000 pages had to be read with the closest scrutiny. The aim was to bring to light and to accumulate under a definite category the references to all provisions on a definite subject, however scattered those provisions might be in the various sorts of enactments. The failure to employ precise language in the statutes, the use of different language at different points in the same act or in different acts to attain apparently identical objects, and the numerous conflicts and inconsistencies in the provisions of the statutes, giving rise to implied repeals and amendments, have tended to obscure the obvious construction, which it is the business of an index to note, and to retard progress. However, the index will be completed within the time estimated and for the sum appropriated, thanks to the diligence and devotion of the lawyers engaged upon the work.

The initial indexing is already finished. It consists of some 200,000 brief entries (typewritten on separate cards) followed by a reference to the volume and page where found and the date on which the statute was passed. At the present moment the entries are being carefully compared and edited and all parts of the classification are being checked up for definiteness and consistency with their cognate parts. When the editing is finished a typewritten manuscript will be prepared for the printer into whose hands it is due to arrive about

April 1, 1908. The volume will be ready for publication July 1 and will be distributed by the superintendent of public documents in the same manner as the statutes at large.

There remain to be indexed in the statutes at large all the treaties and proclamations, the statutes enacted between 1789 and 1873 and the statutes local, personal and temporary from 1873 to date. Should congress continue the small annual appropriation of \$5840 the work will go forward. It will take two years to complete it.

The work is being conducted by Middleton G. Beaman (Harvard Law School), member of the Massachusetts bar; Joseph A. Beck (University of Pennsylvania Law School), member of the Pennsylvania bar; F. Granville Munson (Harvard Law School), member of the New York bar; A. K. McNamara (Cornell University Law School), member of the New York bar; L. Russell Alden (Harvard Law School), member of the District of Columbia bar; G. W. Scott (University of Pennsylvania Law School), member of the Pennsylvania bar.